



"Farming Fresh Alternatives"

Dec. 1, 2007

<http://www.ncagr.com/markets/aquaculture/NCAA.html>

Volume 1, Issue 1

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Special points of interest:

- Letter from the President
- Updates to Present Use Value Taxation
- Electric and Natural Gas Tax Exemption for Agriculture
- Prawn Production
- New Member Survey

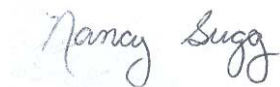
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Over the last several years, our industry has been faced with increased regulations, foreign imports, and serious disease issues. In the future these issues will likely increase in frequency and potentially in scope. Examples of these are: water issues facing the hybrid striped bass industry; VHS in the great lakes affecting multiple species; imports from China, and others.

I believe it is time to resurrect the NC Aquaculture Association to begin to face these issues as an industry as a whole rather than by species groups or individual farms. I, along with several other NC farmers have taken it upon ourselves to start this process. So far this year, we have adopted a new set of bylaws, appointed an interim board and are working on our first of many newsletters. **NOW WE NEED YOU!** Without your support the NC Aquaculture Association will not be able to accomplish anything. We need your knowledge, concerns, and input. I hope you will take the time to fill out the enclosed membership application and survey. By everyone filling out this survey, the association will be able to better address the needs of the NC aquaculture industry as a whole. Memberships will run on the calendar year. By joining now, your membership will run from Jan 1-Dec. 31, 2008. You will also be able to vote in the elections at the annual meeting.

I also invite you to join us at the NC Aquaculture Development Conference Jan. 18 and 19th in Atlantic Beach NC for our annual meeting. At this meeting, we plan to elect a formal board and officers. Sincerely,



Interim President

Present Use Value Taxation

*Present Use Value
Taxation should
result in tax savings
for family farms.*

We all know aquaculture is a form of agriculture, but in recent years it has been difficult to convince county tax collectors to use Present Use Value to determine the tax rate for aquaculture facilities. That was until this year. The NC General Assembly made some important changes to

the Present Use Value method of determining property taxes for aquaculture operations. NC now allows farms raising “aquatic species” to qualify for present use value if they either contain 5 acres in actual production of aquatic species or produce at least 20,000 pounds of aquatic

species per year. This should result in tax savings for most aquaculture facilities in NC.

Thanks to Debbie Hamrick of NC Farm Bureau for forwarding this information along.

Electric and Natural Gas Tax Reduction

*Senate Bill 3 phases
in a 0% tax rate on
electricity for
agriculture over four
years.*

As many of you may be aware, North Carolina passed a comprehensive energy bill in the 2007 summer session that mandates that a portion of our energy come from renewable sources. There was a lot of press about that aspect of Senate Bill 3. Receiving less press play was language also

contained in SB 3 to exempt agriculture and manufacturers from tax on electricity and piped natural gas over a 4-year time period.

The bill phases in a 0% tax rate for agriculture over four years. The tax rates over the next four years will be: Oct., 2007-July 1, 2008 1.8%; July 1, 2008-July

1, 2009 1.4%; July 1, 2009-July 1, 2010 0.8%; after July 1, 2010 0.0%.

Thanks to Debbie Hamrick of NC Farm Bureau for forwarding this information along.

NC Prawn Industry Continues To Expand

*NC prawn producers
are getting between
\$8 and \$10/lb for
whole prawns.*

While the culture of freshwater prawn (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*) has been around for many years, it is the “new kid on the block” in NC. Five years ago, the industry got started with DJ & W King Prawn Farm. Now with six acres, they are the largest freshwater prawn farm in NC. Over the years, more farms have entered the market. Currently there are about 8 farms and about

20 acres in production in NC. This summer brought increased interest spurred on by several workshops organized by Mike Frinsko, NC Cooperative Extension Aquaculture Specialist. Due to these meeting and the positive experiences by our current farmers, there could be 2-3 more farms started over the next year. NC farms have been receiving a premium price for their prawns and have

banded together to form a marketing and purchasing cooperative to ensure continued premium pricing and to get group discounts on supplies. For more information on the potential for freshwater prawn farming on your farm, contact Mike Frinsko or Steve Gabel with the NC Cooperative Extension Service or Matt Parker with the NC Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

NCAA Voting Membership Categories

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Active: Active members will be any individual, partnership or corporation engaged in aquacultural production. This is identified by the fact they are licensed or permitted by the N C Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to commercially operate in the production of aquatic animals or plants or who hold a shellfish lease or other permission to commercially produce marine or estuarine fish, shellfish or crustacean in North Carolina, by the Division of Marine Fisheries. Membership in this category is limited to those who derive a portion of their income directly from aquaculture.

Support Industry: Support Industry membership shall include individuals or

representatives of companies or corporations that provide logistic, material or technical support to some portion of the aquaculture industry. Members may include entities including but not be limited to the sale of feed, aerators, nets, processing equipment, pharmaceuticals, pumps, line, wire, bags and other materials and equipment or consultants. This includes those individuals and companies permitted or licensed by the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer services to operate commercial fee fishing facilities or to transport fish into the state or otherwise possess aquatic animals.

Government/University: University, College and Community College, State Agency and Federal Agency representatives are in-

cluded in this category. Membership is required at the program or divisional level.

Honorary: Membership in this category is reserved for individuals who have provided outstanding service to the industries of aquaculture in North Carolina. This designation is established by majority vote of the Board of Directors. It should be limited primarily to retired individuals or those individuals who are no longer directly involved in the production of aquatic animals or whose duties have changed significantly relative to their previous responsibilities. It may also be offered to individuals in related fields who have provided outstanding service to aquaculture in North Carolina.

NCAA Non-Voting Categories

Student: Student members will be individuals attending an accredited university, Community College or public/private High School, who is interested in aquaculture in North Carolina.

Associate: This shall include individuals who are interested in the development of aquaculture in North Carolina. This may be for profit or simply for personal interest.

New Member Survey

Please rank in order of importance with 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important

What do you see as the major issue facing the NC Aquaculture Industry in the coming years?

- ___ Water Quality Issues
- ___ Aquatic Animal Health
- ___ Marketing Your Products
- ___ Waste Disposal Issues
- ___ Other (Please specify):

How would you like to see the NC Aquaculture Association spend its revenues?

- ___ Scholarships
- ___ Legislative Issues
- ___ Educational Outreach
- ___ Technical Training For Members
- ___ Other (Please specify):

Would you be interested in serving in a leadership role of the organization? (please check one)

- ___ Yes, as an officer
- ___ Yes, as a board member
- ___ Yes, on a committee if needed
- ___ Not at this time

Please provide any additional comments in the space below:

Membership Form

Categories	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Active Membership	\$ 50
<input type="checkbox"/> Support Industry	\$ 250
<input type="checkbox"/> Government/University	\$ 250
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 10
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate	\$ 25

Name

Address

Phone

Email

Make Checks Payable and return to:
North Carolina Aquaculture Association

c/o NC Dept. Agriculture and Consumer Services
P.O. Box 2066



c/o NC Dept. Agriculture and
Consumer Services
P.O. Box 2066
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

<http://www.ncagr.com/markets/aquaculture/NCAA.html>

NC Aquaculture Development Conference

January 17, 2008

Farm Tours

January 18-19, 2008

Conference

The 2008 Annual Meeting of the NC Aquaculture Association will be held in conjunction with the 2008 NC Aquaculture Development Conference in Atlantic Beach NC. The dates of the conference are Jan. 18 and 19, 2008. The conference will once again be held at the Atlantic Beach Sheraton. Please make an effort to attend this meeting as we will be electing new officers.

The topic of this year's conference focuses on Sustainability in Aquaculture. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Ron Hardy from the University of Idaho. Additional speakers will cover the latest research in NC. Consumer preferences for

seafood, niche marketing, off-shore aquaculture, flounder culture and VHS.

One of the highlights of the conference will be the Aquafest featuring NC Aquaculture Products.

Please make plans to attend. More information can be obtained from the web at www.ncaquaculture.org or by contacting:

Matt Parker
matthew.parker@ncmail.net
252-633-1477

2008 North Carolina Aquaculture Development Conference

Jan. 18-19 2008

[Sheraton Atlantic Beach](#)

2717 W. Fort Macon Road

Atlantic Beach, NC 28512

1-800-624-8875

Mention the NC Aquaculture Development Conference for discounted rates

Conference room rates:

\$63.75 Oceanview

\$89.00 Oceanfront

\$119.00 Oceanfront Suite